

COLUMBUS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met at the Williams Township Community Volunteer Fire Department at 7:30 P.M., December 11, 2001, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing to hear comments from the property owners regarding a proposed fire tax increase.

After the Public Hearing, the Board reconvened a Board Meeting that was recessed December 3, 2001 at 9:07 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman

C.E. Wilson, Vice Chairman

Spruell R. Britt (Arrived at 7:35 P.M.)

David L. Dutton, Jr.

Bill Memory

Lynwood Norris

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Billy Joe Farmer
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

ABSENT:

Sammie Jacobs

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman McKenzie called the Public Hearing to order regarding the petition for an increase in the Williams Township Community Fire Department Fire District Service Tax.

Barry Housend, Fire Chief, explained the needs of the Fire Department and stated that the Fire Department is proposing a \$.06 tax increase per \$100.00 evaluation.

Chairman McKenzie requested anyone in attendance who desired to comment to raise

their hand and state their name before speaking.

The following persons spoke regarding the proposed tax increase.

Dalen Beck: Inquired about the interest payment of \$11,475.

Bill Worley: Questioned the ISO Rating being 9. Will this rating be reduced with additional supplies, etc. that this additional tax will provide.

John Hardwick: Stated that when the Fire Department was established, they held fund raisers. The County is distressed financially and the residents does not need their taxes increased.

Sue Miller: Questioned if Fire Departments within towns are paid for calls?

Rhonda Housend: Advised the group that their family is taking money out of their pockets to subsidize the Fire Department

Gary Cribb: The Fire Department needs to have fund-raisers to help off-set cost.

Junior Duncan: Mr. Duncan responded that it cost the Fire Department Members to have fund-raisers. There is no money to be made in holding fund-raisers.

Elwood Watts: If the Fire Tax increases, when will it become effective?
James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, responded that it will be July 1, 2002.

Shane Miller: How much of the tax assessment is distributed to the Fire Department?

Mr. Hill replied that 100% of the tax assessment is distributed to the Fire Department by the Columbus County Finance Office.

Jimmy McPherson: When I received my tax bill, there was a charge from Chadbourn Fire Department.

Chairman McKenzie responded that if there are any charges on your tax bill that should not be, you should contact the Tax

Office and they will release the charges and correct your account.

Bill Hinson: Is having a problem with his tax statement also regarding other Fire Department taxes being included on his statement.

Vernon Gurganus: Does the Fire Department apply for grants?

Barry Housend responded they do apply but the grants require matching funds.

David McPherson: Mr. McPherson complimented the Fire Department for the great job they are doing but commented he feels with the economy depressed as it is, an additional \$.06 tax assessment is too much.

There being no further comments, Chairman McKenzie requested the citizens in attendance to vote by raising their hands for or against the proposed tax increase.

FOR: 30

AGAINST: 76

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 P.M.

RECESSED BOARD MEETING RESUMED

At 8:20 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Memory and passed unanimously to resume the Board Meeting that was recessed December 3, 2001 at 9:07 P.M.

AGING - GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING CONTRACT APPROVED

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve a Contract with the Cape Fear Council of Governments Grant Agreement for Senior Center General Purpose Funding for Fiscal Year 2002. The total payment under this Contract shall not exceed \$39,769.00. A copy of the Contract is on file in the offices of the Aging Director and the Clerk to the Board.

BOLTON (TOWN OF) - REQUEST TO OPEN SENIOR CENTER

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, reported that Frank Wilson, Bolton Mayor came by the Administration Office and requested the County to allow the Town of Bolton to open the Bolton Senior Center Exercise Department beginning January 2002 with the Town of Bolton's Senior Center Program Director supervising the department with the Town of Bolton absorbing the cost.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Memory and passed unanimously to table the request.

APPOINTMENT - JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner Bill Memory to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) to replace Commissioner David L. Dutton, Jr., for the remainder of a two (2) year term, expiring June 30, 2003.

TRANSPORTATION - EXEMPT FOR LEGAL ALLOWABLE WAIVERS

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Memory and passed unanimously to exempt the Public Selection of Architectural Services for the Columbus County Transit Facility for legal allowable waivers and in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-64.32.

FIRE & RESCUE (EVERGREEN) - NO ACTION TAKEN ON SIGNING OF DOCUMENT

A document was presented to the Board from the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department requesting Board approval to acquire new capital assets through a Lease Purchase Contract.

No action was taken.

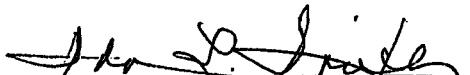
APPOINTMENT - BOARD OF HEALTH

A motion was made by Commissioner Memory, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to appoint Kenneth Waddell to serve on the Board of Health to

replace Ward Shaw, for a three (3) year term, expiring December 31, 2004, to represent District 6.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Memory, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:45 P.M.



Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:



Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman